

Iowa's Notable Dead ...

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JOHN C. SHOVER, educator, industrial engineer and civic leader, died at George Washington University hospital, Washington, D.C., February 12, 1956; born near Belle Plaine, Iowa, September 3, 1889; removed with parents to Missouri in 1900, his father homesteading in Hennessey county, later when the Cherokee strip was opened for settlement; grew up as a youth in northern Oklahoma, attended Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas, and graduated from Oklahoma Methodist University in Oklahoma City; went to Java and later to Sumatra as a teacher with the Foreign Missions Board of the Methodist Church; in 1916, met his wife, the former Rea G. Voke, also teaching in that area, while at a conference in Malaya and they were married June 24, 1923; had returned to the United States in 1920 to finish his education, and received his master's and doctorate of philosophy degrees in economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1926; worked for many years as an industrial engineer in the textile industry and later was associated with Macey's and W. J. Sloane in New York; also worked with Dr. Arthur Morgan of Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio, for several years; removed to Washington in 1934 as assistant director of personnel of the Home Owners Loan Corp.; later worked for three years in Omaha as regional director of personnel for the Farm Credit Administration, then returned as director of personnel at the National Labor Relations Board; during World War II served as manpower officer for the state of Virginia with the rank of major; went with the Department of Defense as a manpower analyst; retired in March 1955, and from April to October was associated with the Human Relations Area Files, a research group at Washington; had taught at night for several years at Catholic and American Universities; since moving to Fairfax county seven years ago, played a major role in building and strengthening the citizens federation there, and in the transition from the old form of government to the county executive form; had been president of his local Northeast Fairfax County Citizens Association and vice president and president of the Federation of Civic associations of Fairfax county; this year was elected first vice chairman of the Interfederation Council, composed of persons representing all the federations of citizens associations in the Metropolitan area, and was in line for the presidency and would have been the first representative of Fairfax county to

hold that post, but could not accept because of ill health; played a part in all the major campaigns in growing Fairfax county in recent years; was a proponent of a master plan for the development of the county, and had a strong interest in public transportation, roads and the regulation and improvement of water service; a former national president of the Society of Industrial Engineers, now incorporated into the Society for the Advancement of Management; a member of the Cosmos Club and from 1940 until the time of his death, on the official board of Foundry Methodist church; surviving besides his widow are two brothers, Dr. W. G. Shover of Tallahassee, Fla., and V. W. Shover of Kansas City, Mo., and a sister, Mrs. Madge Wilcox, of Brush, Colo.

EDWARD ALFRED STEINER, clergyman, educator and sociologist, died at his home at Claremont, California, June 30, 1956; born in Czechoslovakia, November 1, 1866; son of Adolph and Jeanette Heller Steiner; educated in the public schools of Vienna, gymnasium at Pilsen, Bohemia; was graduated from University of Heidelberg, 1885; in his youth made two attempts to board ships for the United States which were thwarted, but in his third attempt, was aided by his mother and was successful; on arrival, worked in what he called a "sweat shop" pressing cloaks, in a baker's shop, a feather renovating factory, a sausage factory and doing farm chores; next worked in tobacco fields, a steel mill and in the coal mines and while a coal miner in Ohio, was involved in a strike and served six months in jail, and on release went to Chicago, Illinois, to work in a machine shop until harvest time when he worked in the fields; received his B.D. at Oberlin, 1891, and took post-graduate work at universities of Gottingen and Berlin, 1891; married Sara W. Levy of Oxford, Ohio, August 31, 1891, and was ordained a Congregational minister the same year, becoming pastor of the church of that denomination at St. Cloud, Minnesota, remaining there until 1892 when he became minister at St. Paul, from that year until 1896; then to Springfield, Ohio, 1896-99, Sandusky 1899-1903; became a special representative of *The Outlook* in Russia, 1903; and professor of applied Christianity at Iowa, now Grinnell College, since September 1903 until 1941, when he retired after 38 years service on this staff; two years after death of his wife in 1941, was married again to Clara Elizabeth Perry of Westerly, Rhode Island, a long-time family friend; became author of "Tolstoy, the Man" 1903; "On the Trail of the Immigrant," 1906; "The Mediator," 1907; "The Immigrant Tide," 1909; "Against the Current," 1910; "The Broken Wall," 1911; "The Parable of the Cherries," 1913; "From Alien to Citizen," 1914; "Intro-

ducing the American Spirit," 1915; "Nationalizing America," 1916; "My Doctor Dog," 1917; "Sanctus Spiritus and Company," 1919; "Old Trails and New Borders," 1921; "The Eternal Hunger," 1925; "The Making of a Great Race," 1929; a Phi Beta Kappa and member of church societies; survived by his widow, a son, Dr. Richard Morrow Steiner of Portland, Oregon, an ordained Congregational minister, and a daughter, Gretchen Henrietta (Mrs. Clyde Hightshoe) of Ottumwa, Iowa; a son, Henry York, having preceded him in death.

ROBERT B. ADAMS, owner and operator of mammoth Iowa farm and retired Iowa chief of O. P. A., died June 27, 1956, in an Omaha hospital, where, after a coronary attack, he had gone for treatment from his 6400 acre farm near Odebolt, Iowa; born at Hopkington, Massachusetts, April 14, 1887; son of the late William P. Adams; attended the Hill school at Pottstown, Pennsylvania; came with parents in 1890 to Odebolt, when the father purchased what was then called the Wheeler ranch, where an extensive dairying business had been conducted; and the Adams family for many years concentrated in raising grain and sheep; as a youth, made long trips on horseback throughout the West to buy sheep, an industry later abandoned, but large sheep barns still stand on some of the farm's 10 sections, on which as many as 175 teams of mules were used for many years, even after tractors had come into general use in the thirties; has been active in banking, insurance and other business endeavors in addition to agriculture; was influential in the Republican party in Iowa, but not an office seeker; entered his prize horses in shows throughout the Middle West and took top prizes at the Iowa State Fair horse show, which he attended every year, had extensive business and farm interests in Chicago, Illinois, and Florida; experimented with hemp raising in Florida long before the World War II days, when it was raised in Iowa for the making of rope; a trustee of Grinnell College, Grinnell, and a director of the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa; prominent in Iowa business and political affairs for many years, but made his home in Miami Beach, Florida; was briefly Iowa director of the office of price administration (OPA) in the early days of World War II, the agency that rationed tires, gasoline and many other commodities, and also controlled prices during wartime, and in this federal post served without pay until 1943; survivors include his widow, Jessie H.; two sons, William P. Adams II and Robert B. Adams, jr., both of Odebolt, and a daughter, Mrs. John M. Searles of Davenport.

JOHN C. ("SHADY") LEWIS, former president Iowa State Federation of Labor and political figure in labor circles, died June 14, 1956, at St. Louis, Missouri, where he had gone to enter the Barnes General hospital for surgery; born in Arbertillery, Wales, in 1876; came to the United States with his parents when 5 years old; first settled in Ohio, and a few years later the family moved to Pennsylvania, where the father found work in the coal mines; as a boy came to Zenorsville, a mining community in Boone county, Iowa, in 1886; worked as a miner in Boone county and in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania, spending about 26 years altogether in the mines; virtually all his adult life was active in the labor movement; for many years was active in miners local unions; in 1913, was elected to the executive board of a subdistrict of the Iowa district of the United Mine Workers; four years later was named president of the Iowa district; resigned from that post when elected president of the Iowa State Federation of Labor in 1921 and served in that capacity until June 1937; during World War I, was a member of the war labor advisory board; in 1936 was a representative to an international labor conference in Geneva, Switzerland, by appointment of Frances Perkins, then secretary of labor, and while in Europe, did research in the mining industry; served several years on the national bituminous coal commission, beginning in 1937, appointed by the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt; had been in recent years a personal representative in the Midwest of John L. Lewis, international head of the United Mine Workers, whom he resembled physically, both Welsh and had been coal miners, but not related; lived with a daughter, Mrs. Viola Stradtman, at 3506 Glover avenue, Des Moines; other survivors being two sons, Harold and Russell, and two other daughters, Mrs. Robert Pendry and Mary Lewis, all of Des Moines; four sisters, Mrs. Dan Price and Mrs. Margaret Lantz of Boone, Mrs. Bess Jenkins of Clarion and Mrs. John Spence of Madrid; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

GEORGE GILBERT ("BERT") JECK, produce and creamery merchant and public official, of Atlantic, Iowa, died at Rochester, Minnesota, July 7, 1956; born in Minonk, Illinois, October 5, 1875; educated in the public schools and entered the employ of a local produce house, becoming manager in 1895; then to Ottumwa, Iowa, and to Atlantic in 1899, continuing in the same business there until 1920, when Swift & Co. bought the plant; continued as plant manager until 1940 when retired on a pension; married in 1899 to Eda VanHouten at Mountain View, New Jersey; served on both the Atlantic city council and the

school board; became active in politics early in life, and a Democratic precinct committeeman in Ottumwa when he was 21 years old; was a ninth district delegate to the Democratic national convention in 1932 and a delegate-at-large to the 1948 convention; was elected national committeeman in 1944 and re-elected in 1948; was a member of the state Democratic central committee from 1934 to 1944 and was committee treasurer from 1942 to 1944; served as federal internal revenue collector for Iowa from April 2, 1951 to October 20, 1952, under appointment by former President Harry Truman to fill the vacancy caused by the death of E. H. Birmingham of Sioux City; survivors include the widow, two sons, Roger S., Fairmont, Minnesota, and George V., automobile dealer at Spirit Lake, Iowa, the latter a member of the Iowa conservation commission, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

MORTON O. COOPER, lawyer and former economist and administrative officer U. A. Department of Agriculture, died at Washington, D.C., May 10, 1956; born in 1889 at Manson, Iowa; was graduated from Iowa State College in 1912; was the first student to receive an M.A. degree from American University in Washington, D.C., in 1916; received a law degree from George Washington University in 1923; twice served as president of the Washington Philatelic Society; joined the Agriculture Department in 1912 as an assistant economist in the Office of Farm Management; in 1917 was appointed Extension Animal Husbandman at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg; in 1920, after serving as secretary of the Tennessee Beef Breeders Association, returned to the Agriculture Department and served until 1944, when he was appointed Division Chief in the War Foods Administration; became acting chief of the Wool Division in the Livestock Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration until he retired in 1953; then served briefly as a wool marketing consultant in Boston; survived by his widow, Rosario Granados Cooper, two brothers, Arthur and Clark of Manson, and two step-daughters, Mrs. Willard Adams of New York City, and Mrs. Joseph C. Hagerty, Jr., 708 Decatur pl. N.E., Washington, D.C.

WILLIAM P. HUGHES, newspaperman, retired publisher of the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, died there May 8, 1956; born in 1870 in Jones county; entered the newspaper business as secretary to the manager of the *Marshalltown Times-Republican*, then owned by D. W. (Fritz) Norris, who acquired the Council Bluffs publication in 1909 and transferred Hughes there to manage the property as publisher; was named chairman of

the board in 1939, when a group of *Nonpareil* employees purchased the Norris holdings; prior to retirement from active management of the paper in 1937, had been active in civic and business affairs; a member of the First Presbyterian church and various local civic service organizations; survived by nieces and nephews, Mrs. Hughes having died in 1938.

JACOB EARL FICKEL, retired major general of the U. S. Air Force, died at Wiesbaden, Germany, August 7, 1956, while visiting a son at the European air force headquarters; born in Des Moines, Polk county, Iowa, in 1883; attended North high school in Des Moines and the old Des Moines college; enlisted in the U. S. infantry in 1904 and in World War I was transferred to the Air corps; in 1911, demonstrated the feasibility of firing a rifle from an aircraft with Aviation Pioneer Orville Wright at the controls during the flight; in 1939, appointed assistant chief of the air corps by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and retired in 1946; surviving him is his widow, Marian, who accompanied him on the European visit and was with him at the time of his death from heart attack, also two sons, Col. Arthur A. Bickel, whom they were visiting, a deputy commander of the air materiel force in the European area, and Stanton; he had resided at San Antonio, Texas, since his retirement.

JAMES M. D. OLMSTEAD, physician and professor emeritus of Physiology at University of California, died at Berkley, California, May 26, 1956; born at Lake City, Iowa, in 1886; no family data now available; as an adult studied at Middlebury College, Harvard, Oxford and the University of Toronto before starting his career in medical education; located in California in 1927 from the University of Toronto, where he had worked on insulin research; became a research participant in the discovery of insulin; awarded by the French Academy of Sciences in 1949 its Binoux prize in history and philosophy of science; retired as chairman of the University of California physiology department in 1952.

W. ELDON WALTER, farmer, stockman and legislator, died at Marshalltown, Iowa, November 1, 1955; born on a farm near Green Mountain, Iowa, November 14, 1898; son of Warren S. and Iva N. Walter; graduated from Beaman high school and received his B.S. degree from Iowa State college; a Methodist, a Mason, an Odd Fellow, a Republican and a member of Sigma Pi fraternity; served four terms as a state representative before becoming a member of the Iowa senate in 1949; surviving are his wife and two daughters, a brother, Paul M. Walter of Union, Hardin county state representative, and a sister, Mrs. H. Wentzein, Gladbrook.

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